

## **DRAFT: Letter in Preparation for COP29**

We write to urge that gender equality be centered in COP29 – the finance COP – and that women’s leadership be advanced in all climate-related decision-making. The July 2024 meeting of the Heads of Delegation to COP29 in Baku and the September meeting in Bonn present crucial opportunities for the Presidency and the Parties to advance implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) and to recognize that women’s leadership is integral to progress.

Climate change is an existential threat that disproportionately burdens women and girls. From war-torn Ukraine and Gaza to the drought-affected Sahel, climatic shifts are creating hostile conditions that entrench inequality, spark conflict, and increase fragility. Over 80 percent of the people currently displaced by climate-related events are women and girls, who face greater difficulties absorbing and recovering from climate shocks. Yet, women receive only two percent of climate finance, and the more fragile a country is, the less climate finance it receives.

Women and girls are often on the frontlines of efforts to address climate change as activists, leaders, community members and peacebuilders. Nonetheless, the needs and demands of women and girls are often overlooked in multilateral climate processes. In part, this is because they are severely underrepresented in talks, which are heavily male dominated and provide little opportunity for civil society’s direct participation in negotiations. At COP28, women made up only 34 percent of national delegations and only two percent of delegations had equal representation of women and men.

In June 2024, the Bonn climate negotiations sought to review implementation of the GAP, which is the key entry point for advancing gender-responsive climate action. The COP29 presidency must give the GAP the importance it deserves. A comprehensive, renewed and well-funded Gender Action Plan must be endorsed at COP30 in Brazil.

We call on all Parties to the Convention to commit to GAP implementation and gender financing, to promote gender parity in delegations and negotiating teams, and to nominate National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points. The marginalization of women in decision-making roles and in financing mechanisms is detrimental to climate progress. Only through concerted efforts will the global community realize an inclusive, just, and transformative climate transition.

Sincerely,  
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